



# FRANKLIN

## Norfolk County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Franklin is a suburban industrial community on the watershed between the Charles and the Blackstone Rivers, 22 miles southwest of Boston. It is one of the highest towns in Norfolk County. Settlement came late, in 1676, after the ending of King Philip's war. Its early years saw settlers involved in small scale farming and grazing, but the town's abundant water power ensured early industrial development. There were cotton mills, felt makers and boot and shoe manufacturers established in Franklin in the 18th and 19th century, but the dominant industry in the town from 1799 on was the making of straw bonnets, and Franklin became one of the centers of straw bonnet manufacturing.

Franklin renamed itself in 1778 to do honor to Benjamin Franklin. Although over 30 communities in the colonies eventually so honored Franklin, the Massachusetts Town of Franklin was the first to do so. Ambassador Franklin in turn showed his appreciation of the tribute by sending the town a library of 116 volumes which formed the nucleus of a public library. Franklin prides itself on the wide spectrum of architectural styles preserved in the community. Visitors can see handsome Greek revival and Italianate buildings, as well as High Victorian Gothic, Second Empire and Queen Ann, among others.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Norfolk and Wrentham on the east and south, Pellington on the west, and Medway on the north. Franklin is about 26 miles southeast of Worcester; 28 miles southwest of Boston; 26 miles north of Providence, Rhode Island; and 196 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 27.01 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 26.74 sq. miles

**Population:** 22,095

**Density:** 826 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(West Medway Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....70.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Franklin, Holliston, Wrentham

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 528-7900

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Town Council

Town Administrator

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1778

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	13,497		
Democrats	3,265	24.2	%
Republicans	1,708	12.7	%
Other parties	3	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	8,521	63.1	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Franklin city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	29,560	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	29,560	100.0
Male.....	14,487	49.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	318	1.1
Female.....	15,073	51.0	Mexican.....	40	0.1
Under 5 years.....	2,774	9.4	Puerto Rican.....	92	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	2,715	9.2	Cuban.....	42	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	2,343	7.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	144	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	1,948	6.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	29,242	98.9
20 to 24 years.....	1,103	3.7	White alone.....	28,166	95.3
25 to 34 years.....	4,029	13.6	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	6,351	21.5	Total population.....	29,560	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,935	13.3	In households.....	28,934	97.9
55 to 59 years.....	1,099	3.7	Householder.....	10,152	34.3
60 to 64 years.....	845	2.9	Spouse.....	6,742	22.8
65 to 74 years.....	1,345	4.6	Child.....	10,532	35.6
75 to 84 years.....	819	2.8	Own child under 18 years.....	8,674	29.3
85 years and over.....	254	0.9	Other relatives.....	772	2.6
Median age (years).....	34.8	(X)	Under 18 years.....	227	0.8
18 years and over.....	20,595	69.7	Nonrelatives.....	736	2.5
Male.....	9,944	33.6	Unmarried partner.....	344	1.2
Female.....	10,651	36.0	In group quarters.....	626	2.1
21 years and over.....	19,462	65.8	Institutionalized population.....	66	0.2
62 years and over.....	2,943	10.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	560	1.9
65 years and over.....	2,418	8.2	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	985	3.3	Total households.....	10,152	100.0
Female.....	1,433	4.8	Family households (families).....	7,881	77.6
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	4,523	44.6
One race.....	29,312	99.2	Married-couple family.....	6,742	66.4
White.....	28,364	96.0	With own children under 18 years.....	3,951	38.9
Black or African American.....	318	1.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	859	8.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	43	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	461	4.5
Asian.....	491	1.7	Nonfamily households.....	2,271	22.4
Asian Indian.....	123	0.4	Householder living alone.....	1,858	18.3
Chinese.....	203	0.7	Householder 65 years and over.....	685	6.7
Filipino.....	13	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	4,690	46.2
Japanese.....	31	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,775	17.5
Korean.....	45	0.2	Average household size.....	2.85	(X)
Vietnamese.....	29	0.1	Average family size.....	3.29	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	47	0.2	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	9	-	Total housing units.....	10,327	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	3	-	Occupied housing units.....	10,152	98.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	2	-	Vacant housing units.....	175	1.7
Samoan.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	3	-	occasional use.....	31	0.3
Some other race.....	87	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	248	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.9	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races:</i> <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	10,152	100.0
White.....	28,580	96.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	8,247	81.2
Black or African American.....	390	1.3	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,906	18.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	100	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.06	(X)
Asian.....	587	2.0	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.92	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	16	0.1			
Some other race.....	145	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 207

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Franklin is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 140 and Interstate Route 495, the outer belt around Boston.

### Rail

Commuter rail service to Back Bay Station and South Station, Boston, is available from Forge Park (travel time to BBS: 49-61 min.; 722 MBTA parking spaces) and Franklin (travel time 42-54 min.; 185 spaces). Conrail services a freight rail line through Franklin. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

### Bus

Franklin is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

### Other

The Norfolk Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 2,700' asphalt runway with a copter approach.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Franklin House Healthcare N.H.

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.